

REMARKS

The amendment was considered to be necessary in view of US patent 6 289 861, which was newly cited by the Examiner in the Official Action of 01/04/05, although it was not applied by the Examiner.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the feature that the on/off spool valve is disposed in the bearing cover so as to extend horizontally across the camshaft by way of which the hydraulic fluid for operating the camshaft adjustment device is supplied to the camshaft adjuster via the spool valve. This arrangement provides not only for the convenient fluid supply and discharge passage arrangements as now also defined in amended claim 1 but also for a low construction height of the engine overall as the spool valve will not extend over the engine contour. Furthermore, and most importantly, all hydraulic connecting lines are only very short as a result of the cross-wise arrangement of the spool valve, so that the lines can be easily drilled or formed into the cover during manufacture.

With the arrangement as now defined in the single remaining claim 1, the invention is clearly distinguished from the prior art the horizontal cross-wise arrangement of a spool valve, by which the required flow passages can be straight and shortened, so that manufacture and installation of the bearing cover including the valve is facilitated.

Reconsideration of claim 1 as amended is therefore respectfully requested and allowance of claim 1 as amended is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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